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Tranquilizers for Large Animals

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1 **Tranquilizers for Large Animals.** The tranquilizing drugs have proven themselves a popular and successful means of chemical restraint. Under certain conditions they have many advantages over drugs formerly used for sedation. At this time the most successful tranquilizing drugs are the phenothiazine derivatives.

The uses of the tranquilizing drugs are quite extensive, varying from restraint and pre-anesthetic purposes to therapeutic purposes. In the bovine species they have been used as a means of restraint to facilitate handling and manipulation of aggressive or nervous animals of both sexes; for relaxation of the penis in the bull or steer to permit examination and/or surgery to that organ; as a means of restraint during and following certain surgical procedures; as a pre-anesthetic in conjunction with pentobarbital sodium or general anesthetics containing chloral hydrate. They have been used as a therapeutic agent to reduce post-parturient straining in cows. The use of tranquilizers in newly-weaned calves is claimed to reduce the shock of weaning and increase weight gains during the first week after weaning.

The tranquilizing drugs are being used in equine practices to enhance the manipulation and examination of nervous and excitable individuals, they are used in conjunction with local anesthesia prior to fiiring, and as a muscle relaxant to allow manipulation of the penis. The tranquilizing drugs have gained favor as a means of chemical restraint prior to shoeing, X-ray examination, dental work, minor surgical procedures and breeding of unruly mares. They are also used successfully to calm and quiet nervous individuals prior to hauling or entering the show ring, as well as therapeutic agents to aid in treatment of colic, laminitis and tetanus.

The tranquilizers are quite successful as a means of chemical restraint in the ovine species. They are routinely used to facilitate handling, in restraint for surgery, in the treatment for tetanus and for calming ewes who refuse to accept their lambs.

The use of tranquilizers in swine have given erratic results. Agalactia and viciousness of sows during farrowing have been successfully treated in some cases with tranquilizers in conjunction with posterior pituitary injection.

Most of the tranquilizing drugs can be administered intravenously, intramuscu-

larly and some can be given orally. The intravenous injection of the tranquilizers gives more rapid and more consistent tranquilizing action than either of the other two routes of administration.

The following tables list the dosages generally employed at the I.S.C. Veterinary Clinic for the intramuscular and intravenous injection of the different tranquilizing drugs. In the following tables the average bovine is considered to weigh 900 to 1600 pounds, the average horse to weigh approximately 1000 pounds and the average sheep to weigh 150 pounds.

Chlorpromazine Hydrochloride (Thorazine)
(Smith, Kline and French Laboratories, Philadelphia)

	Intravenous	*Intramuscular*
Bovine	100–175 mg.	200–350 mg.
Equine	100–150 mg.	150–200 mg.
Ovine	25 mg.	25 mg.
Swine	10 mg./100 lbs.	10 mg./100 lbs.

Promazine Hydrochloride (Sparine)
(Wyeth Laboratories, Inc., Philadelphia)

	Intravenous	*Intramuscular*
Bovine	250 mg.	400 mg.
Equine	150–250 mg.	250–350 mg.
Ovine	25–50 mg.	25–50 mg.

Perphenazine (Trilafon)
(Schering Corporation)

	Intravenous	*Intramuscular*
Bovine	100–200 mg.	150–300 mg.
Swine	10 mg./100 lbs.	10 mg./100 lbs.
Equine	**Contraindicated**	**Contraindicated**

(Acepromazine)
(Fort Dodge Laboratories, Fort Dodge)

	Intravenous	*Intramuscular*
Bovine	50 mg.	50 mg.
Equine	25–50 mg.	50–100 mg.
Ovine	10–25 mg.	50–75 mg.

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Repair of Mandibular and Premaxillary Symphyses in the Feline. A 1½-year old domestic feline was admitted to Stange Memorial Clinic with fractures of the mandibular and premaxillary symphyses, fracture of the hard palate and a torn soft palate. The patient had apparently been struck by an automobile.

Domestic feline showing the fractured premaxillary and mandibular symphses.

The patient was anesthetized, and the face and oral cavity were cleansed in preparation for surgery.

The mandibular symphysis was aligned and transfixed with stainless steel wire around the canine teeth. A similar apparatus was placed on the fractured symphysis of the premaxilla. The palate was sutured with Vetafiil (synthetic suture material, Bengen and Co., Hannover, West Germany).

Since the fractures and the oral cavity were obviously contaminated during the accident, the patient was given Combiotic (Charles Pfizer & Co.), 1 cc. daily for